

Restoring Fish Passage at WSDOT Stream Crossings

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House Transportation Committee
January 15, 2014



US 97 Butler Creek east of Goldendale

WSDOT Fish Passage Program

Partnership with WDFW starting early 1990's

WSDOT barriers inventoried and prioritized statewide:

- 1,987 barriers identified
- 1,519 with significant habitat (>200 meters)

285 corrections to date; improving access to over 971 miles of stream habitat.



US 12 Silver Creek east of Randle

Federal Court Injunction March 2013

- 1,019 WSDOT culvert barriers apply
- 847 with significant habitat
 - Must be corrected by 2030
 - Some barriers with smaller amounts of habitat (up to 10% of total) can be deferred
- All 1,019 must be corrected as culverts fail or other projects involve these culverts



Area Covered by Injunction

Must Mimic Natural Stream Conditions



BEFORE: SR 530 Fortson Creek, west of Darrington. Previous culvert had excessive outfall drop



AFTER: Fortson Creek with new stream crossing

Cost to Meet the March 2013 Federal Court Injunction

\$2.4 billion estimated cost

- Does not include cost of correcting barriers outside the injunction area, or those identified after the date of the injunction
- Does not reflect 10% deferral of culverts with smaller amounts of habitat
- Projects currently in design have higher than originally estimated costs

Current Status of Complying with the Injunction

- Ramping up scoping and design -- 34 corrections currently in design, 75 more to be scoped 13-15
- Existing funding through 19-21 will support only 24 fixes, 15 of which are in the current biennium
- Recommend approximately \$200 million in 15-17 to scope, design, and construct corrections
- Lack of future funding and technical complexity are creating obstacles to planning and delivery

Efficiencies in Correcting Barriers

- Created dedicated fish passage design teams
- Worked through Lean process with WDFW to improve collaboration on design, avoid re-work, and eliminate duplication
- Worked with WDFW to streamline permitting
- Working with industry experts on existing and emerging approaches to delivery

Example of Local/State Coordination

SR 11 Padden Creek – Joint project with Bellingham



Salmon attempting to enter the downstream end of the tunnel that is 3 blocks from the new SR 11 bridge.

- Creek runs through 2,200' brick tunnel built in the 1890's and a barrier to fish
- City will daylight the creek and restore to historic channel – plan to complete in Spring 2014
- WSDOT building a bridge on SR 11 near 20th Street that will span new channel

Contact

For more information about Restoring Fish Passage
at WSDOT Stream Crossings, please contact:

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